

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the herewith presented amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-37 are pending in this application. Claims 6, 7, 12, 13, 34 and 35 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicants acknowledge the election of the species of Group I, figs. 1-8 without traverse.

Claims 1, 9 and 30 are objected to by the Examiner for allegedly having insufficient antecedent basis.

Claims 1, 9, 16, 18-21, 26 and 37 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Applicants have reviewed the present claims and have amended the claims so as to remedy the technical objections raised by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The amendments as presented herewith are believed to overcome the Examiner's formal objections.

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 14-32 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 196 090 252 C1 (Brose), in view of Müller, U.S. Patent No. 7,160,047 (Müller).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner names DE 196 09 252 C1 (Brose) as the closest piece of prior art. However, applicants urge that the Examiner's analysis of Brose is, however, incorrect. The Examiner asserts that Brose shows an electrical connection. Applicants cannot find this

anywhere in the Brose document. Applicants understand that there does not appear to be an English language equivalent of Brose. An English language translation is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience. A perusal of the translation should convince the Examiner that the original interpretation of Brose is not well-founded.

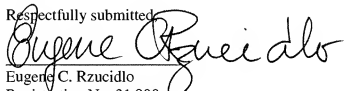
The Examiner has additionally cited US-PS 7,160,047 (Müller) "Bolts for Metal Foams". However, applicants believe that the combination proposed by the Examiner is not tenable because his analysis of the Brose document is wrong. Müller simply cannot fix the deficiencies in Brose since the basic premise as to the Brose disclosure in itself is in error.

It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn and early and favorable action on the pending elected claims is solicited.

If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 309-1214. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at gcr@hunton.com.

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By: Respectfully submitted,


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